

SITUATION REPORT NO. 8

INCIDENT NO. 95-04

DATE: April 28, 1995

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: 1995 Flood Disaster. (With this report, we have combined the 1995 Devils Lake Flood, Incident #95-04 comprehensive situation reports and the Spring Flooding, Incident #95-34, situation reports into Incident 95-04. Incident 95-34 has been discontinued.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The level of Devils Lake was 1433.5 as of April 27, 1995. The flow in the Lower Mauvis Coulee is the highest on record at 1430 cfs. Devils Lake has risen over 11 feet since the spring of 1993. The volume of water has more than doubled increasing the area of the lake by 33% or 23,000 acres. It is expected the ice will come off of Devils Lake in the next week.

The frost is going out of the ground in North Dakota. In the counties that were extremely saturated last fall, the roadbeds are soft and muddy. Deep ruts have been and are forming from normal traffic. These conditions have seriously impacted the accessibility of emergency services to rural citizens.

Spring planting is delayed in most of the state due to below normal temperatures and excessive topsoil moisture or flooding conditions. The average beginning of spring planting is April 15. As of mid-week, USDA officials had identified nearly 1,000,000 prevented planting acres in 23 North Dakota counties.

Benson County: Grahams Island Road is being kept open for local access only. High Devils Lake water levels are beginning to undermine the pavement.

A culvert manufacturing business located on the lake shore is moving to a different location because of flood waters.

Foster County: Officials indicate serious inundation of farmland east of the James River.

Griggs County: Besides damage to roads, Griggs County officials report damage to dam sites, water control structures, and road structures.

Kidder County: The city of Dawson is experiencing overland flooding causing severe damage to a sewage lift station.

Nelson County: Officials report problems are developing with the sewage lagoons at Tolna, Petersburg, and Lakota. The main concern is with lagoon cells exceeding their maximum storage capacity. The access road to the Lakota lagoon is flooded.

Pembina County: The spring runoff in the Pembina River Basin is causing damages to public and private property in Pembina County. Damages include flooded roads, farmland.

A dike protecting the Neche water intake facility required installation of a coffer dam to enhance protection, which began leaking. The coffer dam also required reinforcement.

The high water levels on the Pembina River have caused the Tongue River to back up, flooding approximately 30,000 acres of farmland northeast of Bathgate.

Water levels in Pembina County are currently too high to make an accurate assessment of public and private damages.

Ramsey County: Trapped overland flood waters are threatening the City of Lawton. An emergency dike installed in 1993 will be threatened if additional precipitation is received.

Expanding flood waters of the Lower Mauvis Coulee are threatening the sewage lagoon at Churches Ferry.

Stutsman County: Pipestem Dam reached a record level of 1475.3 feet msl on April 24, 1995. This exceeds the previous record set in 1993 which was 1472.64 feet msl.

Combined releases from the Jamestown Dam and Pipestem Dam are putting 1,000 cfs through Jamestown. This causes high river levels resulting in basement seepage problems in Jamestown and concern by rural residents along the river.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: Local officials in Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Ramsey, Rolette, Nelson, Steele, Towner, and Walsh counties and the Fort Totten Indian Reservation are providing staff and information for the preliminary damage assessment process.

STATE: The ND Division of Emergency Management is coordinating the preliminary damage assessment (PDA) process.

Six ND Department Of Transportation personnel are serving on the PDA teams.

The ND Department of Health and Consolidated Laboratories is providing technical assistance to city officials in Petersburg and Tolna in Nelson county. They have approved emergency releases from these lagoons.

The State Water Commission is providing pump resources to supplement the pumping operation for the damaged sewage lift station at Dawson.

FEDERAL: FEMA Region VIII has dispatched preliminary damage assessment teams to North Dakota.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided diking operations assistance to the city of Necho in Pembina County.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: Thirty-five American Red Cross clean up kits were delivered to Pembina County. So far, over 1,000 Red Cross and Salvation Army clean-up kits have been distributed to North Dakota residents.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Twenty-one counties, four cities, and two Tribal Councils have issued emergency/disaster declarations citing damages resulting from spring flooding.

At the request of Governor Schafer, FEMA Region VIII is conducting public assistance and individual and family assistance preliminary damage assessment (PDA) surveys in 10 counties and on the Fort Totten Indian Reservation. The counties are: Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Nelson, Ramsey, Rolette, Steele, Towner, and Walsh.

The ND Division of Emergency Management dispatched 10 staff members on Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22, to assist with county initial damage assessment activities.

Jamestown city officials have advised citizens of mitigation actions regarding pumping activities and sewage systems problems.

At Lakewood Park on Devils Lake, all recreation equipment and facilities have been removed.

ND Parks and Recreation is in the process of moving their facilities on Devils Lake at Black Tiger Bay, Grahams Island, and Shelver's Grove to at least 1438 feet msl.

ND Game and Fish Department, at Devils Lake, is working with ND Parks and Recreation on developing an alternate route to Black Tiger Bay. They are also insuring boat access to Devils Lake by extending ramps at Creel Bay and the north ramp at 6 Mile Bay. High water levels will not allow boats to go under the bridge at highway #19 to get access to the southern portion of 6 Mile Bay. ND Game and Fish is developing a southern high water ramp at 6 Mile Bay.

The ND National Guard provided damage surveillance flights of the Devils Lake region for local, state, and federal officials on April 27, 1995.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA PDA Teams, US Army Corps of Engineers
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The above normal releases from Jamestown and Pipestem Dams required by near record inflows has effects on interests in Dickey and LaMoure Counties.

FEMA officials in Denver have indicated that Benson, Nelson, Ramsey, and Williams counties and the unincorporated city of Armenia have been moved from the "Emergency" to the "Regular" phase of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) effective May 2, 1995. This means residents in those counties with flood insurance will be able to apply for increased coverage as of May 2, 1995.

Governor Schafer has been notified today that the USDA Secretary has designated 15 counties as primary disaster areas based on flood and storm-related production losses in 1994.

The 15 primary counties are: Adams, Benson, Cavalier, Emmons, Foster, Griggs, LaMoure, McIntosh, Nelson, Ramsey, Richland, Sioux, Steele, Stutsman, and Towner.

This action makes family-sized farm producers and agricultural-related businesses eligible for reduced interest loans through USDA's Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) and the Small Business Administration.

Additionally, farmers and affected businesses in 21 counties contiguous to the primary counties will also be eligible. The contiguous counties are: Barnes, Bowman, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Eddy, Grand Forks, Grant, Hettinger, Kidder, Logan, Morton, Pembina, Pierce, Ransom, Rolette, Sargent, Slope, Traill, Walsh, and Wells.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director